

# California Strategic Growth Council

## MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

**Strategic Growth Council Meeting – January 20, 2015 1:00-4:00**  
**East End Complex 1501 Capitol Ave. Sacramento, Ca 95814**

### **Council Members and Representatives Present:**

Chair Ken Alex, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR);  
Vice-Chair Bob Fisher, Public Member;  
Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);  
Secretary Matt Rodriquez, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA);  
Secretary Anna Caballero, Business, Consumer Services, and Housing (BCSH);  
Secretary Diana Dooley, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);  
Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);  
Secretary Brian Kelly, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);  
Undersecretary Brian Annis, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);  
Gail Goldberg, Public Member

### **Agenda item #1: Call to Order**

*Ken Alex, OPR*

Chair Ken Alex called the meeting to order at 1:08 and officially welcomes Public Member, Gail Goldberg.

### **Agenda item #2: ACTION: Approval of October 6, 2014 Minutes**

Secretary Laird approved the October 6, 2014 meeting minutes with the suggestion that they become a brief description as opposed to a transcription. Secretary Caballero seconded. Secretary Rodriquez asked for a modification of the word "satisfied" to be changed to "set aside" in a quote attributed to him in the October 6<sup>th</sup> minutes. Motion approved: 9-0.

### **Agenda item #3: Council Communications and Updates**

- Secretary Rodriquez updated the Council on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima in December.
- Secretary Laird noted that the Water Action Plan is moving into implementation now.
- Co-Chair Bob Fisher suggested the Council get briefed on the water bond.
- Secretary Rodriquez noted that the Governor's budget was established with \$200 million being provided for the SGC's continued appropriation for its programs.

**Agenda item #4: Executive Report**

*Mike McCoy, SGC*

The full Executive Report can be found [here](#). In addition, Secretary Caballero noted that the SGC Strategic Plan which was adopted several years ago has now expired. Executive Director McCoy responded that staff have begun work on concepts for a new plan and that these would be brought to the April Council meeting.

**Agenda item #5: Overview of the 2014-15 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program and the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program**

*Brian Annis, CalSTA*

*Bruce Roberts, CalTrans Division of Rail and Mass Transit*

The full presentation on the LCTOP and TIRCP programs can be found [here](#).

**Agenda item #6: ACTION: Adoption of Program Guidelines for 2014-15 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program funds**

*Julie Alvis, CNRA*

*John Lowrie, DOC*

Secretary Laird approved the motion. Secretary Ross seconded the motion. Nineteen public supporters spoke briefly to the Council. The motion was approved 9-0.

The full presentation on the SALC program can be found [here](#).

Public comments on the SALC program:

*Karen Buhr, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts*

*Karen Gaffney, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District*

*Renata Brillinger, CalCAN*

*John Gamper, California Farm Bureau Federation*

*Nicole Byrd, Solano Land Trust*

*Jeff Stump, Marin Agricultural Land Trust*

*Kathryn Lyddan, Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust*

*Andrea Mackenzie, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority*

*Mark Fenstermaker, Land Trust of Santa Cruz and Peninsula Open Space Trust*

*Ed Thompson, American Farmland Trust*

*Daniel O'Connell, American Farmland Trust*

*Michele Clark, Yolo Land Trust*

*Adam Livingston, Southern Sierra Partnership*

*Liz O'Donoghue, The Nature Conservancy*

*Nancy Schaefer, California Rangeland Trust*

*Chris Mowrer, California Council of Land Trusts*

*Craig Edgerton, Silicon Valley Land Conservancy*

*Katerina Robinson, Carbon Cycling Institute*

*Kerri Timmer, Sierra Business Council*

*Jeff Roberts, Granville Homes*

**Agenda item #7: ACTION: Adoption of Program Guidelines for 2014-15 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program funds**

*Allison Joe, SGC*

*Kate White, CalSTA*

*Susan Riggs, BCSH*

*Nicolas Heidorn, CalEPA*

Secretary Rodriguez made the motion to adopt the Program Guidelines for 2014-15 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program funds. Secretary Caballero seconded the motion. Before adopting the guidelines, the Council Members reflected on and discussed the program.

Secretary Dooley: I am sympathetic to the comments about treating open space and habitat land in the way that ag land is done. I observed the tensions between competing needs; is this primarily a greenhouse gas reduction program or a housing program? There is never enough to do everything we need to do, but I vote to support the staff recommendations to move forward.

Secretary Caballero: I want to recognize the hard work that has been done, but one of our obligations is to recognize what has and hasn't worked, so I would like to ask staff to start on a lessons learned. It may be appropriate that we do a study session and we hear from the community how the process was and whether there are some changes we need to make.

Gail Goldberg: For me to move forward today, that is conditional on a commitment that we will look carefully at all of the issues as we move forward and not wait until we get back projects. As a public member, I deal with the people who are actually going to be applying for these projects and the decision makers need to be able to defend their decision; whether I agree with it or not, I need to be able to explain it and defend it.

Secretary Rodriguez: The bottom line is we want to get this right and we want to make sure that this money is spent to further the purposes identified by the legislature. A number of valid points have been raised today and we need to commit to look at these issues. We need to err on the side of caution and be able to prove that there are GHG emission reductions that come out of this program.

Undersecretary Annis: We had several operators come to us with ideas for street-car type projects and other things in lieu of a bus project and if I understood correctly, those applicants should still feel free to come forward and if there's an alternative quantification so those projects may be developed.

Co-Chair Bob Fisher: I think the guidelines are overly complex and over time, we can simplify them. The more we can integrate moving forward, the better and we may not be in a position to do that until we see the types of projects that come in. I would like to see whether or not we can have public participation on the steering committee because the public members are a bit of a different voice and from this point forward, it's as much about listening to the public and making sure each agency gets their own issues in here.

Chair Ken Alex: The bottom line I want to continue to emphasize is GHG reduction. Yes, the emphasis is on affordable housing and disadvantaged communities, but the bottom line legally is GHG reduction, so 55 points in the scoring makes a lot of sense to me. We are committed to looking at how we can improve in future rounds. This is part one to be continued and we are absolutely dedicated to seeing how this goes and making course corrections.

The motion was approved 9-0 with the amendment of including open space in the guidelines.

The full presentation on the AHSC program can be found [here](#).

Public comments on the AHSC program:

*Robert Poythress, San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council*  
*Jeanie Ward-Waller, Safe Routes to School National Partnership*  
*Christopher Castrillo, City of Los Angeles*  
*Curt Johansen, Council of Infill Builders*  
*Monica Palmeira, Coalition for Rural Housing*  
*Megan Kirkeby, California Housing Partnership Corporation*  
*Shamus Roller, Housing California*  
*Jeff Roberts, Granville Homes*  
*Alice Talcott, MidPen Housing*  
*Rebecca Long, Metropolitan Transportation Commission*  
*Matt Robinson, City/County of San Francisco*  
*Wendy Alfson, California Walks*  
*Alex Gibbs, Townsend Public Affairs*  
*Liz O'Donoghue, The Nature Conservancy*  
*Bill Higgins, CALCOG*  
*Ella Wise, Natural Resources Defense Council*  
*Rico Mastrodonato, Trust for Public Land*  
*Tyrone Buckley, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation*  
*Holly Wunder-Stiles, Mutual Housing California*  
*Dr. Lee Turner Johnson, Community Housing Opportunities Corporation*  
*Greg deGiere, The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration*  
*Sarah de Guia, CPEHN*  
*Stuart Cohen, TransForm*  
*Chuck Mills, California ReLeaf*  
*Phoebe Seaton, Leadership Counsel*  
*Marybelle Nzegwu, Public Advocates*  
*Erika Whitcomb, PolicyLink*  
*Juliet Sims, Prevention Institute*  
*Tom Collishaw, Self-Help Enterprises*  
*Nick Garcia, Platinum Advisors*

**Agenda item #8: Public Comments**

There were no general public comments.

**Agenda item #9: Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Ken Alex adjourned the meeting at 5:10.

A full video of the January 20, 2015 Strategic Growth Council Meeting can be found [here](#).